

RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION

A. Acknowledgment of Action

1. Applicant respectfully acknowledges the first Office action in response to the above identified application for patent.
2. Applicant respectfully acknowledges presentation of claims 1 - 62 in the above identified application for patent.

Claim Objections

3. Applicant respectfully acknowledges Examiner's objection to claims 11 - 22 "as being dependent upon a rejected base claim" and statement that these claims "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. Applicant respectfully acknowledges Examiner's quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in the first Office action.
5. Applicant respectfully acknowledges Examiner's rejection of claims 1 - 10 and 23 - 62 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) "as being unpatentable over Drake (U.S. Pat. No. 6,006,328) in view of Holloway et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,912,974)."

Conclusion

6. Applicant respectfully acknowledges Examiner's citation of U.S. Pat. No. 3,829,133 issued to Smagala-Romano and U.S. Patent No. 5,267,314 issued to Stambler.